

Solon Charges Ex-Ambassador May Have Wasted Road Funds

MUST Solon Charges 3-30
WASHINGTON (UPI) — A House committee staff report charged Thursday that a former U.S. ambassador may have wasted more than \$200,000 in foreign aid funds by ordering a road built in Panama without detailed engineering studies.

Staff investigators of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who looked at the road

Eddie Fisher Expected In Mexico On Weekend

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico (UPI)—Eddie Fisher is coming here this weekend, perhaps to seek the divorce that would open the way for Richard Burton to marry Elizabeth Taylor, it was reported Thursday.

Judge Arcadio Estrada Quinones, who granted a divorce to Burton's wife Sybil earlier this week, said Fisher is expected "sometime between Saturday and Monday." He would not say whether the singer plans to file for a "quickie" divorce from Miss Taylor.

(In Hollywood Wednesday, Fisher said of his marriage to Miss Taylor, "I would like to be out of this thing—whatever it is—as soon as possible." But Fisher insisted he had no plans for a trip to Mexico.)

first hand, said they bogged down in a mudhole less than a mile from the start.

They said the 20-mile road, designed to link the central provinces of Panama with the Atlantic Ocean, is "now largely a trail" and impassable for the most part to motor vehicles.

The ambassador, who the report said ordered its construction against the advice of U.S. aid experts, was Joseph S. Farland.

He resigned in a huff last August. Farland has said that one reason he quit was a controversy with aid agency officials in Washington over the handling of a U.S.-insured private housing project for Panama. Farland said he thought the project "stinks."

Grease Fire Doused

Firemen from the Roseburg Fire Department quickly extinguished a minor grease fire Wednesday afternoon at the home of Robert Duncan, 2138 Fremont Ave.

The fire was reportedly caused by a pan of grease which had been left on the stove. Damage was estimated at \$15. The house is owned by Mrs. Keester.

The congressional investigators also reported on that matter. They said the plan to build low-cost housing for low-income families changed somehow over a period of 20 months into a \$10 million project for upper middle income homes, much to the consternation on many Panamanians.

The project calls for the construction of 1,200 single-family houses which would be sold for \$8,333 each on a 174-acre site in Panama City.

The Gilbane Construction Co. of Rhode Island was set to be the prime contractor. A loan of \$8,750,000 at 5 1/2 per cent interest was to be made by two U. S. labor organizations — the Bakery & Confectionery Union and Amalgamated Lithographers of America. The aid agency's guarantee would cover \$8.1 million of the loan.

The committee investigators said other applications for guarantees on housing projects in Panama have been excluded from consideration.

The report said Panama withdrew a commitment to also secure the loan with government bonds after the "turnaround" on the project, which is now being reviewed by the aid agency.

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